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ODE TO QUEEN VICTORIA.

WRITTEN FOR THE ANNIVERSARY OF HER MAJESTY'S BIRTH-DAY.

Ave, Ocean Queen of Victoria, hail!—
By ocean's freemen led
Thy galleys proudly to the gale
Their flags triumphant spread.
For 'tis with France the race was run,
For this our Wellesleys fought and won,
O'er Moores and Nelsons bled;
And 'tis for this, in love allied,
Small other Moores and Nelsons bled,

O'er every sea, on every bank,
In fortune's every flight,
The foremost in fame's foremost rank
A Briton stands revealed:
East, west, north, south, our merchant kings,
Walked along on commerce wings,
A thousand sceptres wield:
Queen of a thousand kings, thy sway,
Built travels with the king of day!

And private woe and public weal
Alike thy cares divide;
'Tis thine a Nation's wants to feel,
To be a Nation's guide:
First guardian of thy country's right,
Thyself in every sphere a light—
Queen, daughter, mother, bride;
Nor female star, nor queenly lore,
Such lustre shed on Crown before.

Th' Egyptian, fairest of the fair,
A constellation shone;
And beauty found a temple there,
But found it not alone:
Now glory sway'd, now lust impell'd,
And both divided empire held—
The hovel and the throne:
By day with kings and heroes loud,
By night the plaything of the crowd.

In after ages, Roman Kate
The palm of merit bore;
Great in the hall, in council great,
A Queen, and nothing more
And English Bess, of virgin pride,
May take her place by Catherine's side,
In glory as in gore:
This slew her lord to grasp a Crown,
Her sister that to save her own.

Then triumph traffic, freedom, Love;
Your confluents display—
Monuments of the British name—
To greet thy auspicious sway:
Science and art your trophies lend—
Let sons of song their voices blend
In one harmonious lay;
While peace and plenty, hand in hand,
Their garlands scatter round the land.

The rapture and the rivalry,
The tumult of the throng,
The thrilling shout of loyalty,
To thee the cradle's song:
Freedom's hurrah—that earthquake three
That shook the throne of freedom's foe—
All make thy sceptre strong:
Queen of unnumbered thrones thou art—
Each throne a loyal British heart!

At home, abroad, no sullen slave
May mar thy fair domain;
'Twas Union's self thy sceptre gave,
And Union shall maintain:
Nor foreign foe, nor bosom-brand,
May mock thy lovers' "Fatherland"—
The watchword of thy reign:
So millions yet unborn shall bless
The reign of strength and gentleness.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SCENES IN INDIA.

BY THE REV. ROBERT CAUNTER, B. D.

Futtepoor Sicri was a favourite city of Akbar. It is now scarcely more than a village, a large space within the decayed wall built by the Emperor being without edifices of any kind, and many of those yet standing are in a state of melancholy dilapidation; still the traces of its former splendour may be seen in some very striking remains. The neighbouring hills are composed of a greyish granite, and have evidently supplied the material of which the town is built. Here Akbar used to pass much of his time, and here he established wild beast fights which were during his reign still more celebrated than those of Lucknow have since been. Indeed these fights have in all ages, more or less, formed one of the favourite pastimes of Eastern sovereigns. To them war was a high and stirring delight, and therefore everything that had a tendency to illustrate the art of war, or to excite similar impulses, roused in their bosoms those feelings which it was the grand aim of their lives to cherish

The Emperor Akbar was particularly fond of these sports. In order that he might enjoy so favourite an amusement, he erected, just without the walls of Futtepoor Sicri, a lofty minar composed of grey granite dug from the neighbouring quarries. From the top of this pillar it was his custom to behold the contentions of various wild animals snared for this purpose in the neighbouring forests, and especially of elephants, of which he kept a large number trained, and fed with exciting drugs in order to render them more fierce, and consequently more terrific, in the combat.

The town of Futtepoor Sicri stands about nineteen miles south of Agra, where the imperial court was held in the time of Akbar: and to the former town the Emperor used frequently to retire from the pressing cares of state, to enjoy those sturdy recreations so consonant to the character of a warlike prince in a country where wild animals abounded in such multitudes that their destruction became a matter of social necessity, and every social necessity must involve a political.

During my stay in India I have been several times present at exhibitions of this description; but always found that they created feelings of painful disgust rather than of rational pleasure. There is something absolutely appalling in beholding these fierce animals mangling each other with all that ferocity to which Nature has so signally disposed them for those purposes of destruction, as wise as they are benignant, without which the world would be overspread with a savage and indomitable race, and no longer be a secure dwelling-place for man. The cruelties frequently practised towards such wretched animals as are taken in order to contribute to these barbarous sports, is revolting beyond description, for it never appears to be among the contemplation of persons by whom beasts of prey are snared for the arena, that the infliction of pain upon animals which delight in human blood can be otherwise than a meritorious action; and therefore, in the fiercest spirit of retaliation, it is inflicted without mercy. Tigers and lions which have been snared in the jungles are commonly kept without food for several days, and subjected to all kinds of ingenious torment in order to render them the more savage when freed from their cages to encounter an equally formidable and savage enemy. It is a common practice to catch alligators in the large rivers and put them into tanks, with a strong iron wire passed several times round their long muzzles, and so tightened as to keep the jaws close, so that they can receive no solid food. In this state they have been known to live for weeks without perceptibly losing any of their strength. This is often done to render them voracious, preparatory to those exhibitions which take place upon certain occasions at most of the courts of the Mohammedan princes in Hindostan.

During my residence in India I once saw, in a small tank, two alligators, the jaws of which had been fastened as just described, for a period, as it was said, of more than two months. They were caught, dragged upon the bank, where, the iron ligatures being cut, they were immediately released, and feeling their freedom, both plunged with equal eagerness into the water. As they had been for some weeks companions in suffering, neither manifested a disposition to commence hostilities, but occupied different parts of the tank, sinking to the bottom, and occasionally thrusting their noses above the surface to take breath. The water did not exceed five feet in depth, so that unless they kept the middle of the tank they might be seen as they lay at the bottom almost immovable. Though the place was crowded with spectators, the huge reptiles did not appear to be disturbed by so unusual a concourse, and even occasionally bore to be poked with a long pole before they would move from the mud in which they had embedded themselves. At length, the carcass of a sheep was thrown into the water just above where the smallest alligator lay. The voracious creature immediately rose and seized it; which it had no sooner done than its companion appeared on the surface, and with the swiftness of a shaft rushed towards its rival to participate in the tempting banquet, the turbid element dividing before it as if ploughed with the keel of a ship. In a moment both sank, and for some time the water was much disturbed, the black mud rising in considerable quantities, and an occasional splashing sufficiently attested the severity of the struggle that was taking place below. After a while one of the combatants appeared with a portion of the sheep in its jaws, which having devoured, it again sank, and the struggle was evidently renewed. In a short time the water was strongly tinged with blood, the mud continued to rise and the splashing encreased. The anxiety of the spectators was excited to the highest pitch, when both competitors rose at different parts of the tank as if the contest had been terminated, by mutual consent. The smaller alligator had a frightful gash in its throat, and the fore-leg of the larger seemed to be extensively lacerated. They both tinged the water as they swam, nevertheless, their wounds did not appear to cause either of them much suffering or inconvenience. They did not attempt further hostility.

The carcass of a second sheep, in a tempting state of decomposition,—for these creatures prefer putrid carrion to any other,—was thrown into the tank, and the struggle for supremacy renewed. It however did not last so long as the former: each having obtained a share of the prey, which divided at the slightest touch, the contest soon subsided, and both rose once more to the surface without any further appearance of injury. Their bodies appeared less lank; it was, therefore, evident that each had received a portion of the two carcases thrown between them, like the apple of discord in classic story.

On the following day, the alligators, which had already contributed to the sport of the numerous assemblage of unpitying spectators, were caught for the purpose of opposing them to foes of a different species from any they had been accustomed to encounter. They were brought into a large enclosure, within which was a cage containing a fine leopard. The gash in the throat of the smaller alligator had, as was now sufficiently apparent, greatly weakened it. The animal appeared apathetic, and did not promise much diversion to the anxious beholders. The creatures were removed from the tank to the arena on a platform raised upon wheels and drawn by three bullocks. When rolled from the carriage both appeared almost inert, and especially the smaller one, which every now and then opened its huge mouth and gasped, manifestly suffering from the conflict of the preceding day. The leopard, so soon as it saw them, crouched upon its belly, as if conscious what it was about to be called upon to perform: when, however, the door of the cage was opened, which was done by a man in a sort of gallery above by means of a cord attached to the the upper bar, the animal did not seem disposed to try the issue of a combat with antagonists at all times formidable, and in their own element invincible.

A pole being at length introduced, the leopard was irritated by being severely poked; and, with a sudden spring, bounded into the enclosure. The alligators appeared to look upon the scene with perfect indifference, remaining all but motionless on the spot where they had been cast from the platform. Their tails were occasionally seen to vibrate slightly, and especially when their brindled enemy appeared before them in a threatening attitude of attack. The leopard paused for some time with its head upon its paws, waving its tail to and fro, the fur being erected and the ears depressed, as if anxious but fearful to begin the encounter. At length, two or three crackers being flung just behind it, these had no sooner exploded than the terrified and enraged animal darted forward, and springing upon the nearest alligator, turned it over in an instant, and burying its fangs in the throat of its victim, almost immediately despatched it, the helpless reptile appearing not to offer the slightest resistance.

Finding that it had so easily vanquished its weakest enemy, the leopard, excited by the taste of blood, having been kept without food for the above previous days, sprang upon its surviving foe, but with a very different result. The alligator, suddenly shifting its head, the brindled champion missed its spring; when the roused foe meeting it as it turned, made a sudden snap at its head, which it took entire within its capacious jaws, and crushed so severely that, when released, the leopard rolled over and died after a few struggles. The victor was now attacked by a man armed with a long spear, with which he despatched it after a feeble resistance. Thus ended this barbarous pastime.

Upon another occasion I witnessed at one of these sanguinary exhibitions, a contest between a buffalo and a tiger. The buffalo was extremely fierce, and one of the largest of its kind I had ever seen. It commenced the attack by rushing towards its adversary, which retreated to a corner of the arena, where, finding no escape, it sprang upon the buffalo's neck, fixing its claws in the animal's shoulder, and lacerating it in a frightful manner. It was, however, almost instantly flung upon the earth with a violence that completely stunned it, when there appeared a ghastly wound in the belly, inflicted by its antagonist's horn, from which the bowels protruded. The conqueror now began to gore and trample upon its prostrate enemy, which it soon despatched, and then galloped round the enclosure, streaming with blood, the foam dropping from its jaws, its eyes glancing fire, occasionally stopping, pawing the ground, and roaring with maddened fury.

A small rhinoceros was next introduced, which stood at the extremity of the arena, eyeing its foe with an oblique but animated glance, though without the slightest appearance of excitement. The buffalo having described a circuit from the centre of the ground, plunged forward towards the rhinoceros, with its head to the earth, its eyes appearing as if about to start from their sockets. Its wary antagonist turned to avoid the shock of this furious charge, and just grazed the flank of the buffalo with its horn, ploughing up the skin, but doing no serious mischief. It now champed and snorted like a wild hog, and its eyes began to twinkle with evident expressions of anger. The buffalo repeated the charge, one of its horns coming in contact with its adversary's shoulder; which, however, was protected by so thick a mail that this produced no visible impression. The rhinoceros, the moment it was struck, plunged its horn with wonderful activity and strength into the buffalo's side, crushing the ribs and penetrating to the vitals; it then lifted the gored body from the ground and flung it to the distance of several feet, where the mangled animal almost immediately breathed its last. The victor remained stationary, eyeing his motionless victim with a look of stern indifference, but the door of his den being opened he trotted into it, and began muching some cakes which had been thrown to him as a reward for his conduct in so unequal a contest.

The next exhibition was that of three wild dogs, which were put into a lofty and spacious den, [illegible] where a large bear was amusing itself by climbing a pole in the centre. Upon their admission the dogs showed the most eager impatience to reach the top of the pole, which continued on the slightest wish by descend and contest the honour of the victor's wrath. At length, the pole being violently shaken, he was reluctantly forced to descend and encounter his [illegible] foes. These instantly attacked him with extreme ferocity, making him [illegible] with terrific energy. He scrambled [illegible] corner of his den, where, having [illegible] off his assailants with some difficulty, he placed his back against the bars, and squaring himself upon his haunches prepared his shaggy front to the eager attack. One of them sprang at his throat and fastened there, but was immediately caught in the sinewy embrace of the bear, and died without releasing its hold. Meanwhile, the other two dogs had seized their antagonist by the [illegible], where they fixed, and made the poor beast bellow with pain. Being encumbered by the dog which he still held in his gripe, he could for the moment offer no resistance to his active enemies, which made the best of their opportunity and lacerated him without remorse.

Fickling the struggle too serious to be continued, the bear at last fairly turned his back towards his adversaries, lying upon his belly and covering his head with his paws. Although the dogs could not make any serious impression upon the strong hairy hide of poor Bruin, they were nevertheless unremitting in their efforts to despatch him; these they continued until the [illegible] were so completely exhausted as to be scarcely able to stand. Both lay panting beside their unresisting foe, and were finally taken off by a keeper. The bear finding himself released from further molestation, threw the dead dog which he held in his embrace on one side, and mounted the pole in the centre of his prison little the worse for the encounter.

THE PROVINCIAL POST OFFICE.

Although [illegible] late, we cannot resist the opportunity of inserting the following [illegible] on the state of the Post Office Department in this Colony, adopted by the House of Assembly at its recent sitting. The burdens and annoyances to which the people, and particularly the Press, in this portion of the British dominions, are compelled at present to submit, are so grievous, that no means should be left untried to have this most important office placed under the control of the Provincial Government.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

May it please Your Majesty:—We, Your Majesty's most faithful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Canada, in Provincial Parliament assembled, sensible of the desire of Your Majesty at all times to listen favorably to every suggestion, which may have for its object the convenience and welfare of your subjects, in every portion of Your Majesty's widely extended dominions, beg leave to represent to Your Majesty, that while we thankfully acknowledge the great benefit that has been conferred on the inhabitants of the North American Colonies, by the establishment of a regular conveyance by steam, of the mails between Great Britain and America, we would respectfully call the attention of Your Majesty's Imperial Government to the necessity of providing for their more frequent transmission during the winter months.

We need scarcely remind Your Majesty, that mainly depending, as the inhabitants of these Colonies do, on the intercourse with the Mother Country, for their social happiness, and commercial and agricultural prosperity, it is an object of the greatest importance to them, that every facility should be afforded to it; and that between the first of December and first of April, when but one mail per month is despatched to and from the old countries, the necessity of a more frequent communication is particularly felt. It is during that period all the surplus produce of the country is purchased and prepared for the British markets, and the prices here of our staple commodities being regulated entirely by those of Britain, both buyer and seller require the earliest notice of any change that may take place in the markets of Europe, to prevent in many cases the serious losses to the one or the other.

We would also urge as a further reason for the favorable consideration of our request, the fact that during the winter both Your Majesty's Imperial Parliament and Colonial Legislatures, are generally in Session, and that it is highly desirable in many instances, that more frequent intercourse should take place between them than once a month.

Taking these circumstances into consideration, and many others, which, if necessary, might be mentioned, we humbly hope Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to cause the necessary measures to be adopted for insuring to your loyal subjects in these Provinces the transmissions of the mails at least once a month.

Intimately connected with the foregoing is the excessive high rates of postage which your Majesty's Colonial subjects are compelled to pay by the Imperial Government, without any reference to the Local Legislature; and they deem it imperative on them to beseech Your Majesty promptly to take the same into your gracious consideration.

We feel assured that Your Majesty will at once admit the hardship of British subjects in one portion of the empire being compelled to pay extravagantly for that which by others is enjoyed at a merely nominal charge; while in Britain a letter may be sent to any portion of that country for one penny, the inhabitants of Canada are forced to pay from four pence half penny to one shilling and four pence Provincial currency for a single letter within the limits of the Province, although, at the same time, they can send a letter from any part of Canada to Britain, by Your Majesty's Royal Mail Steamers, for the last mentioned sum.

The Government of the United States, anxious to relieve their citizens from so vexatious a burden, have, within the last year, reduced the rates of postage in that country from a standard similar to that still imposed on us to the more moderate charge of two pence half-penny sterling, on a single letter, for a distance of 300 miles, and five pence for any distance beyond that. We can assure Your Majesty that so great a boon enjoyed by a people living in their immediate vicinity, causes the inhabitants of Canada to desire, with increased earnestness, the favorable consideration of Your Majesty's Government on a question of so much importance to them.

We, therefore, humbly pray, that your Majesty will be graciously pleased to direct that a reduction in our rates of Postage may take place without delay; and if not to the extent enjoyed in the Mother Country, at least not exceeding the charge made in the United States.

We state with confidence that the high rate of Postage, now exacted, is a serious charge on the social and commercial intercourse of the Colonies, and that in order to evade it, much of the correspondence is conveyed by private individuals, to the serious loss of the revenue.

We are prepared to hear it objected, that the reduction asked for will cause such diminution in the revenue of the Post Office, as might seriously impede the efficiency of that Department. But when it is considered, that large sums are now annually paid for postage on account of the public service, we respectfully submit to Your Majesty, that both the Imperial and Colonial Governments might, with justice, be called upon to pay their proportion of any deficit that may be caused by a reduced rate, believing that the revenue from the great increase of letters sent by mail, will in a short time, be found sufficient to meet the expenses of the Department.

We would also suggest the propriety of relieving the Press from charges which bear heavily upon it, by allowing exchange Newspapers to be sent by mail free of postage, and remittances to Editors, in payment for their papers, to be transmitted by Postmasters without charge, as is the case in the United States.

We take this occasion to renew to Your Majesty the assurance of our sincere attachment to Your Majesty's person and Government.

STATE OF EUROPE.

In spite of the tranquility and prosperity of Europe, at the present moment, and the absence of any of those continental questions which may at any moment assume a threatening aspect, and demand the utmost vigilance of statesmen, there is enough beyond the present hour to suggest the most serious forecast. The age of the King of the French and of the Minister of Austria, to search no farther into the elements and causes of future change, is in itself a fact of great import. Europe is prosperous, but it can ill afford to sustain the loss of any of those great men who have succeeded, as much by their temper and character, as by their talents, in consolidating the present state of affairs. Without doubt, the existence in France of a strong administration, supported by a compact and powerful party, is the best guarantee not only of the welfare of that country, under all the events and trials to which it may be exposed, but of the general peace of Europe. In moments of real peril, the differences which now divide the rival candidates for office, would subside; but they must subside by the adherence of all the leading statesmen of the country to the interests of public order and government, not by an unwise connivance at the insidious attempts of irresponsible politicians to lessen the weight and dignity of the Sovereign. The next French election, which will probably take place about the first of August, will determine this great question, and will appoint the representatives of the nation who may be called upon to carry the government, by their support, through more than one important crisis. It is not a time when the suffrages of the country are solicited by the advocacy of some particular question of minor interest; it is not a time when experiments can be tried with impunity. The tone of the late discussions, the hostile review taken by M. Thiers of the whole reign, the forcible appeal made by M. Guizot to the principles which were the basis of the compact of 1830, and the extraordinary energy shown by both the rival statesmen on this occasion, sufficiently indicate the importance of the prize for which they are contending. M. Guizot's administration is about to be judged by the country after a trial longer and more complete than any cabinet has enjoyed in France since the revolution. The nation will determine whether theories which are put forward to disguise and embellish the pretensions of personal ambition, are worth the practical benefits which this administration has conferred upon the country. The result is of almost as much importance to Europe as to the French themselves. It is the frequent boast of M. Thiers that he is the most faithful and devoted representative of the principles of the French Revolution; and he has never hesitated to avow himself the defender and imitator of all but the grossest enormities of that terrible period of human history. M. Guizot has played a more original part, and aimed at a loftier object. He has resisted with equal firmness the abuses of absolute power and the excess of popular freedom, not by opposing one extreme to the other, but by establishing and guarding a position between the two. The French Revolution had doubtless, shaken society to its basis, and affected every institution of the country. But the thunderstorm and the earthquake are not perpetual; their strength and their terror are known by the ruins left behind them. To remove those ruins, to raise the fabric of a country's greatness upon a new and solid basis, and to restore as much as possible the ancient principles of the French monarchy in connexion with the constitutional freedom and the enlightened opinions of the present age, is a noble task than to keep alive the spirit of revolutionary excitement. M. Thiers might have figured in the noon-day of the revolution. M. Guizot is fitted to have served in the highest offices of the state either before the French monarchy had fallen from its sphere, or since it has resumed the steady course of a free government. This distinction is sufficiently obvious to the world; and the character of the next French Chamber will demonstrate which of the two party leaders has the support of the political institutions of this country. It is not a question of preference; it is more than a question of favor or hostility to the ministerial policy: it is a determination on which mainly rest the security of the throne and the good order of the realm of France.

[London Times.]

HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS.

ARRIVAL OF THE BRITANNIA.

By the arrival of this Steamship at Boston, on Saturday week, we have news from Home to the 10th ult. The intelligence is of great importance, as showing the decision of the House of Lords on the Corn Bill. Below will be found a condensed report of the proceedings, as well as a lengthy despatch from the Colonial Secretary to the Governor General of this Colony, in answer to the address of the House of Assembly, relative to the Free Trade measures of the Imperial Government. The despatch has attracted much attention in England, and as it particularly interests the people of Canada, its length should not prevent a careful perusal.

THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

THE CORN BILL.

In the House of Lords, on Thursday, the 4th instant, Lord STANLEY moved for a copy of the address which had been received by the Government from the House of Assembly in Canada.

The Earl of DALHOUSIE hoped for the indulgence of the House while he defended himself from an imputation which had been thrown upon him in the other House, to the effect that, when he had said he had no reason to believe that the sentiments of the Canadian colonist were unfavorable to the ministerial project, he knew that the address for which Lord Stanley had just moved had arrived, declaring in the strongest terms their hostility to a free trade in corn. He could only say, that on application to the proper quarter, he had learned that the steamer which brought the address in question had not reached Liverpool until the debate on the corn laws in their lordships' house was over, and, therefore, it was a physical impossibility that he could have been aware of its existence.

Lord STANLEY stated that there was never any intention of casting the slightest suspicion on the veracity of Lord Dalhousie.

After a few words from Lord LYTTLETON and Earl GREY, the motion was agreed to.

On Thursday, the 11th inst., the order of the day for going into committee having been read,

Earl STANHOPE moved that the Bill be committed that day six months. He regarded this measure as more important than the Reform Bill, considering the magnitude of the interests involved in it, and the serious consequences which will inevitably result from it.

Lord LYTTLETON, as representing the Colonial department in that House, wish-

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A lengthy and interesting debat

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